

In-Fur-Nation

Your Guide to the World of Furry Fandom

Volume 19, Number 2

All The News We Get, We Print!

Spring, 2008



< Image c. 2008, Blue Sky Studios >

"I meant what I said and I said what I meant: An elephant's faithful, one hundred percent!" Horton, elephant, in Blue Sky's *Horton Hears a Who!*

Spring is spring-ing, all around us. As the birds come back from who-knows-where, we present some cool furry news we think you'd like to know!

The Ursa Major Awards (for the Best in Anthropomorphics in 2007)

On May 17th, the annual Ursa Major Awards were presented at Morphecon 2008 in Columbus, Ohio. More formally known as the Annual Anthropomorphic Literature and Arts Award, the Ursa Major Award is presented annually for excellence in the furry arts. It is intended as Anthropomorphic (a.k.a. Furry) Fandom's equivalent of the Hugo Award ® presented by the World Science Fiction Society, mystery fandom's Anthony Award., and so forth. The Ursa Majors are administered by a dedicated group of fans, and presented by the Anthropomorphic Literature and Arts Association (ALAA). Nominations for the awards are open to the public, and later ballots are made available by the ALAA. The physical award plaque was designed by **Heather Bruton**. Eligibility in ten categories is for works featuring intelligent and/or talking animals first published during the calendar year in question (in this case, January through December of 2007). This can include new compilations of older works, such as a new collection of previously published separate works. The winners were chosen by popular vote from five finalists in each category. Votes came in from more than a dozen countries around the world!

And, the Ursa Major winners for 2006 were:

- **Best Anthropomorphic Motion Picture** - *Ratatouille* (Walt Disney Pictures and Pixar Studios, released in June of 2007)
- **Best Anthropomorphic Dramatic Short Work or Series** - *Doctor Who: Gridlock* (BBC One)

- **Best Anthropomorphic Novel** - *Life's Dream*, by **Bernard Doove** (published by CreateSpace)
- **Best Anthropomorphic Short Story** - "Don't Blink", by **Kyell Gold** (from *Heat* magazine)
- **Best Anthropomorphic Other Literary Work** - *All the Newshounds Fit to Print* by **Thomas K. Dye** (lulu.com)
- **Best Anthropomorphic Comic Book** - *Gargoyles*, created by **Greg Weisman** (published by Slave Labor Graphics)
- **Best Anthropomorphic Comic Strip** - *Ozy and Millie*, by **D.C. Simpson** (on-line daily comic strip)
- **Best Anthropomorphic Magazine** - *Heat* (published by Sofawolf Press)
- **Best Anthropomorphic Published Illustration** - *Blotch* for the wraparound cover of the *FurAffinity United 2007 Souvenir Book*
- **Best Anthropomorphic Game** - *Sam & Max: Season 2, Episode 1: Ice Station Santa* (designed and published by Telltale Games)

Our congratulations to each of the winners! The award plaques were presented to each of them by mail (and some by hand!) following the ceremony. From the Ursa Major Awards staff: Our thanks to the many folks who helped to set up the awards, and our special thanks to everyone who sent in nominations or voted! Tell your friends to do the same! To find out more about the Ursa Major Awards, including how to make recommendations and nominations, visit www.ursamajorawards.org. Or, write to: The Ursa Major Awards, c/o ALAA, P.O. Box 1958, Garden Grove, CA 92642-1958 to send recommendations or request more information. Official nominations will open in January, 2009. Keep your eyes on upcoming issues of *In-Fur-Nation* for more about the Ursa Major Awards for 2008!

The News

Following what's become their pattern, the folks at Blue Sky Studios ruled the roost in March. Or maybe, ruled the herd? *Horton Hears a Who!* took off at the box office, staying number one for two solid weeks and becoming the first film released in 2008 to top \$100 million at the domestic box office – and later, in early May, becoming the first film of the year to top \$150 million domestic. Critics were very kind to the film too, which didn't hurt matters either. Blue Sky's next feature project will be *Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs*, scheduled for release in July of 2009.

Again surprising no one, the Academy of Motion Pictures awarded the Oscar for Best Animated Feature Film of 2007 to *Ratatouille*, directed by **Brad Bird**. It was, after all, the best-reviewed film of all for 2007, according to many critic polls. Perhaps surprising some, though, was the fact they gave the award for Best Visual Effects to New Line Cinema's *The Golden Compass*. Both films are available on DVD.

Speaking of Disney, they're banking big on the latest film in the *Chronicles of Narnia* series, *Prince Caspian*, to follow in the footsteps of 2005's *The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe* (an Ursula Major Award-winning feature). The new film (based on the second book in C.S. Lewis' fantasy series) reunites director **Andrew Adamson** with the four British kids from the first movie. It also introduces some new talent: **Ben Barnes** in the title role, and **Eddie Izzard** as Reepicheep – one severely kick-ass mouse. Much is riding on this film: While the third movie in the series, *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*, is already locked in for production, whether or not any of the other books in the series are adapted to film after that will depend a lot on how *Prince Caspian* does at the box office.



< Image c. 2008, Dreamworks Animation >

The big furry animation news for the summer of 2008, of course, is *Kung Fu Panda* – which, among other things, may well be Dreamworks Animation's last CGI film presented in a non-3D format. The adventure-comedy tells the story of Po (voiced by **Jack Black**), an over-weight panda working in his parents' noodle shop in the Valley of Peace... a panda who dreams of becoming a kung fu warrior. He gets his dream when, for mysterious reasons, he is fingered as the legendary dragon warrior, destined to save the valley from the evils of Tai Lung, a powerful snow leopard sorcerer. But getting this food-obsessed panda "into shape" for the task will take all the effort that red panda master Shifu (**Dustin Hoffman**) and the five legendary kung fu masters can bear! Hitting theaters on June 6th, the film also features the voices of **Jackie Chan**, **Lucy Liu**, **Seth Rogen**, **Angelina Jolie**, **Michael Clarke**

Duncan, and **Ian McShane**. Visit www.kungfupanda.com to find out more – and, of course, check out www.kungfupandagame.com to check out the new Kung Fu Panda multi-platform video game. And, of course, look for the *Kung Fu Panda* trading cards, loads of tie-in books and other goodies, and even *The Art of Kung Fu Panda* book by **Tracey Miller-Zarneke** (published by Insight). A little scoop you get along with the movie: In front of it is a trailer for *Madagascar 2*, which has changed its name from *The Crate Escape* to *Escape to Africa*.

Coming this July is the new CGI science fiction/adventure/comedy film *Space Chimps* from Vanguard Animation – the company previously responsible for the films *Valiant* and *Happily N'Ever After*. This time, *Space Chimps* is being distributed by 20th Century Fox. It's co-written and directed by **Kirk DeMico**, who was previously a writer on the films *Quest for Camelot* and *Racing Stripes*. The story tells of a chimpanzee named Ham (voiced by **Adam Sandler** of *Saturday Night Live*) who is the grandson of the first chimp ever shot into space. Now Ham, a female chimp named Luna (**Cheryl Hines** from *Father of the Pride*) and a big, self-important chimp named Titan (**Patrick Warburton** from... well, just about everything!) also find themselves blasted into space... and falling into a black hole! Find out what happens next when the film comes to theaters on July 18th.

And then it's... more funny animals in space! *Fly Me to the Moon* tells the story of a group of houseflies who decide to stowaway on board Apollo 11 – bringing down not only the wrath of NASA, but also of a group of Soviet spies who are insulted that American flies would try to get to the moon first! This CGI film stars the voices of **Christopher Lloyd**, **Kelly Ripa**, **Tim Curry**, **Ed Begley Jr.**, **Adrienne Barbeau**, and astronaut **Buzz Aldrin** – as himself! The film, directed by **Ben Stassen** and produced by Belgium's nWave pictures, is scheduled for release on August 22nd.

Bollywood animation? Ready or not, here it comes... The Walt Disney Company has hooked up with a firm in India, Yash Raj Films, to create *Roadside Romeo*, a new CGI film set to hit theaters in Asia this fall. The story is rather familiar: "A rich, cool, spoiled brat of a dog is abandoned on the wicked streets of Mumbai. He faces new situations and dangerous, loony characters, the likes of which he has never met before" [from a press release]. What's making news is that **Saif Ali Khan** and **Kareena Kapoor**, two of the biggest names in Bollywood films, will be lending their voices to the lead characters (Romeo and Laila, respectively). So far, only a pair of teaser trailers have been released, one each for the main characters. You can view them on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NwXuKY24edU> and <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gyKHZzhjQN4&feature=related>. The film is being written and directed by **Jugal Hansraj**. No word yet on a possible European or North American release (of course, of course...).

Hoping to get a leg-up on the future, Walt Disney Pictures announced that eight out of ten new animated films they will be releasing in the next four years (many of them in partnership with Pixar Animation) will be in new digital 3D format. Among them are a second installment of the *Cars* series (coming in 2012) and the second *Toy Story* sequel (simply called *Toy Story III*, set for release in 2010). Also on the digital 3D plate is *Bolt*, which some long-time readers will

recognize as the film that was previously called *American Dog*, which was to be directed by **Chris Sanders** (*Lilo & Stitch*). Now it's directed by **Byron Howard** and **Chris Williams**, and features **John Travolta** as a TV star German shepherd whose belief that he actually has super-powers gets him in trouble out in the real world. It's slated to arrive this November. Two other new 3D films of note to furry fans are *Now* (the story of the last two blue-footed newts on the planet, hoping to find each other and mate) and *The Bear and the Bow* (a fairy tale set in medieval Scotland, in which a headstrong princess' hunting trip releases an ancient curse).

It's always nice to hear that a new **Hiyao Miyazaki** film is coming out, and his latest 2D animated feature is one that furries should notice. *Gake no ue no Ponyo* (or *Ponyo on a Cliff*) tells the story of a 5-year-old boy named Sosuke, who lives near the sea. There, he befriends a magical goldfish named Ponyo – who dreams of becoming human. Although the film is scheduled for release in Japan in late July, there are no trailers on the Internet as of yet... and the web site (www.ghibli.jp/ponyo) is all in Japanese. But, there are several interviews with the creators, as well as music videos, up on YouTube. Just do a search on "Ponyo".

More movies seeking American distribution: *The Missing Lynx* is a new CGI feature from Kador Graphics. A young lynx is captured from the wild by a big-game hunter, with a different purpose: The hunter has been hired by an eccentric billionaire, who fancies himself a modern-day Noah. The lynx and his various animal friends, however, have other plans... they mean to escape! Visit www.themissinglynxmovie.com to find out more.

This from Variety International: "**Louis Leterrier** will segue from helming Universal's *The Hulk* to direct *Blacksad*, from the comic strip about a detective who takes the form of a black cat, scheduled for 2009. The budget could be as high as \$90 million-\$100 million." For those who may not remember, *Blacksad* is actually a funny-animal hard-boiled detective graphic novel series by the writer **Juan Dias Canales** and the artist **Guardino**.

Videos and DVDs

Unstable Fables is the name of a new series of CGI animated fairy tale features, produced by The Jim Henson Company (in cahoots with several others) and released direct-to-DVD by Genius Products. The idea of Unstable Fables is to take traditional fairy tales and go in odd and unusual directions with them. The first production, *3 Pigs and a Baby*, was released in March of this year. Starring the voices of **Jon Cryer**, **Brad Garrett**, **Steve Zahn**, and **Tom Kenny** (*Spongebob Squarepants*), it shows what happens when the three little pigs find themselves having to raise an adopted baby wolf. The character designs are... unusual, to say the least. So are some of the characterizations. The next production, *Tortoise vs. Hare* (starring the voices of **Jay Leno** and **Danny Glover**) will be released this fall, and *The Goldilocks and the 3 Bears Show* (with the voices of **Tom Arnold** and **Brooke Shields**) will be released in early 2009.

Disney's South American and Central American animated adventures – *Saludos Amigos* and *The Three Caballeros*, respectively – have been released together on DVD for the first time. Besides Donald Duck's well-known (and rather psychedelic) adventures south of the border, this collection also features two Donald shorts, *Don Donald* and *Contrary*

Condor, as well as a short live-action film about Walt Disney and his crew making a research trip to Latin America.

Get ready to rock with the rabbits! *The Bunjies* are the biggest, greatest, loudest rock'n'roll band in the world... although they're not yet out of middle school. When parents or teachers or teachers turn their backs, it's time for these bunnies to rock! They'll smash their instruments in front of thousands of screaming fans – just as soon as they finish their homework. You can see the CGI short film by Studio Film Bilder at www.bunjies.com. Who knows? Maybe a TV show is in their future!

This June, it's time for the ultimate battle between good, evil, and snacktime! It's *The Adventures of Sam & Max: Freelance Police Complete Collection DVD Set* from Shout Factory. This 3-disc DVD set collects all 24 episodes of the animated TV series, featuring the world's most famous dog-and-bunny detective team. It's based on **Sam Purcell**'s enormously popular underground comic, of course.

Comics

He's back... to save the world? After the critically-acclaimed *Archibald Saves Christmas* last year, it's time for *Archibald Saves Easter*. Archibald, a plucky aardvark, uses the springtime celebration to try and rid his friends of their personal demons... who are literally bursting forth from Hell! This one-shot "comic murder mystery that combines the classic cartoon shorts of the 1930's with the gritty stylings of Film Noir" [says **Mo Ali**] comes to us now from **Grant Bond** and Image Comics.

Here's a different sort of comic from Arcana Studio: *Wendigo* is a new full-color 4-issue mini-series by **Sean O'Reilly** and **Pedro Del Gado**. This family-friendly comic tells the story of Tanu, a young sasquatch lost in the Canadian wilderness. To find his way home to his family, he'll need to face some of the most fearsome mythological creatures ever seen...

Wulf and Batsy is a new black & white 6-issue mini-series from Viper Comics, written and illustrated by **Bryan Baugh**. Meet Batsy, a feisty young vampire, and her big bad werewolf companion, Wulf. All they want to do is find a place they can settle down and live in peace... which is hard to do when you regularly munch on humans for a meal! The comic strikes a razor's-edge balance between the humorous and the macabre.

The crazies at Dentiblu who brought you *Pigsty of the Caribbean* now return with another one-shot black & white parody, *Harry Porker*. The furry boar known as Zannablu decides to attend Warthog's School of Wizardry, only to find himself caught up in the battle of Harry Porker vs. the evil Lord Voldepork. You get the idea. Visit www.zannablu.it to find out more.

Books and Trade Paperbacks

More erotic "recom" romance from **Lora Leigh**. In the "Breeds" series, human DNA is mixed with that of wolves and big cats to create a species of ferocious fighters, used as an army by a fanatical, security-obsesses society. Of course, certain humans wind up getting very close to members of The Breeds... and other humans want to see them exterminated. Several books have been released in

the series (all of them by Berkley Press), with more on the way. The latest is *Dawn's Awakening*, in which a wealthy businessman finds himself drawn towards a feline female of the breed who's been assigned to protect him.

Stephen Wing is a lifelong writer, who found himself having strange visions while he was suffering a toxic reaction to a round of chemotherapy. Later, those visions evolved into his latest novel, *Free Ralph! An Evolutionary Fable* (from Wind Eagle Press). A clan of telepathic chimpanzees (they call it "The Gift") live in Africa. In a newspaper cast away by a tourist, the clan recognizes a young chimp who was kidnapped by poachers years before. Then, a new human comes into the forest: A would-be big game hunter, who shares the Gift with the clan! Taking the amazed human in as one of their own, the clan commissions him for a daring rescue: Head to Florida, and free the young chimp from the circus!

A different sort of take on death... from a dog's-eye view: *The Art of Racing in the Rain* by **Garth Stein** is a new hardcover novel just out from Harper Publishing. It tells the story of Enzo, a philosophical sort of family dog, who realizes he is approaching the end of his life. Out of love for his lifetime human family, he decides to make the heroic effort to get them what they really need... perhaps, he hopes, in order that he might earn being reincarnated as a human. And finally find out what opposable thumbs are really like!

"Fluffy is a young rabbit with a human daddy named Michael, an anxious bachelor stuck in an uncomfortable, uncertain relationship with a woman who just happens to be Fluffy's preschool teacher". That's the basic description of *Fluffy*, a new black & white graphic novel by **Simone Lia**. Already famous internationally, it's being released in the U.S. this June by Dark Horse Comics. See what happens when Michael and his young talking rabbit take a road trip to get away from the woman in their lives... Also coming soon from Dark Horse are the first English translations of **Akiko Ikeda's** popular series of illustrated children's books, *The Dayan Collection*. These four books, which tell the story of a mischievous young cat named Dayan and his woodland friends, have been a publishing phenomenon in Japan and elsewhere for nearly 20 years. And look for *Scrambled Ink*, a full-color hardcover compendium of illustrated tales brought to us by a team of Dreamworks animators: **Dave Pimentel, J.J. Villard, Dave Derrick, Jenny Lerew, Ken Morrissey, Keith Baxter, and Ennio Torresan**.

Tom Siddell's popular web-comic *Gunnerkrigg Court* comes to dead trees thanks to the folks at Archia Studios Press. Antimony Carver, her new best friend Kat, and her demon-possessed plush dog explore the mysteries of their gloomy boarding school, Gunnerkrigg Court. Along the way they encounter body-snatching demons, forest gods, and the odd mythological creature or two. Visit www.aspicomics.com to find out more about this full-color hardcover graphic novel.

New from Tokyo Pop: *Roxy Lady* Volume 1, a digest-sized manga by **Ayuni Tachibana**. Young Jin's studies to become a priest of the Mikasa Shrine are interrupted when Kogane, a shape-changing fox-girl, shows up in his life. She's determined to fulfill her dream of becoming fully human -- by binding with the heir to the shrine!

Any illustrator, furry or otherwise, might want to check out *Studio Space*, a new hardcover book from Image Comics. Visit some of the worlds top comic book illustrators in their own studios, and see how they create their famous works. Illustrators like: **Frank Miller, Mike Mignola, Jim Lee, Walter Simonson, Dave Gibbons, Tim Sale** -- and many more.

Otto's Orange Day is a new full-color "Toon Book" from Raw Junior, created by **Frank Cammuso** and **Jay Lynch**. When a young cat named Otto finds a magical genie, he wishes to turn the entire world his favorite color: Bright orange! A parable about the risks of getting what you wish for.

DMF Comics bring us *The Bear Stories, Volume One*, a new full-color graphic novel by **George Todorovski** and **Chris Hatzopoulos** (whew!). A cartoon bear living in the big city learns to deal with big city problems, from being ripped off at the hot dog stand to getting booted out of gentlemen's clubs!

Funny animals helping kids learn how to read! [Gee, we've never heard of THAT before, have we?] *Phonics Comics* is a new series of educational funny animal comics, written by **Lara Bergen** and illustrated by various artists. They're published by Innovative Kids. Each of the three volumes -- *The Fix-It Crew, The Tutu Twins*, and *Duke and Rang* -- feature three full-color illustrated stories.

Heathen City is, to quote the creators' web site, "a bold new graphic novel for mature audiences, written by **Alex Vance**, illustrated by **Ayato, Distasty, Krahnos, Charha**, and **Fel**. Lushly detailed, full-color digital/traditional artwork and an ambitious, urban, modern story, *Heathen City* raises the bar for anthropomorphic fiction. *Heathen City* takes a globe-spanning thriller with rent-boys and thugs, conspiracies and secrets and quick, cheap love in the alleys." You heard it here, folks! And at www.baddogbooks.com/heathencity/ if you want to find out more. Bad Dog Books will release the first *Heathen City* graphic novel on June 26.

The first collection of *The Dog Days of Summer*, **Blotch's** reader-controlled weekly on-line comic strip, will be released by Sofawolf Press at the end of June. This from their official web site, www.dogsdaysofsummer.com: "The book concludes the first half of the web-comic in an additional 34 pages, bringing the comic's total length to 67 full color pages. Also included in the book are 14 pages of concept art and artist commentary. Will Diego let Raj sink his claws into him—or is his heart (and goolies) already set on another?" This new full-color graphic novel will premier at Anthrocon 2008, and will also be available at San Diego Comic Con. Of course, you can also order it through Sofawolf! Visit the web site to find out more.

Most unusual stuff... visit www.dogandfrog.com to view some unique dog-themed designs on t-shirts and other products. Basically, they take the names of various dog breeds and mix them together with silhouettes of the animal in very interesting ways -- then put them on t-shirts. Check them out.

Obituaries

We lost some good ones over the past few months, folks...

Gary Gygax, the father of *Dungeons & Dragons* – and, by extension, the father of role-playing games as we know them today – passed away in March at the age 69. Gary and his cohorts designed the original version of the world's most famous fantasy role-playing game (FRP) in 1974. The company they formed to market their new idea, Tactical Studies Rules, would later grow into the massive gaming empire that was TSR. Gary had a rather stormy relationship with TSR over the years, especially after he left the company in 1985. But he was much beloved in the gaming community: Not only for what he invented, but for the balls that he helped get rolling! If it were not for *Dungeons & Dragons*, there might never have been *Werewolf: The Apocalypse...* or *World of Warcraft*... or, for that matter, just about any MUCK you can think of!



< Image c. 2008 by Jim Groat >

Not so much about Furry, but: **Arthur C. Clarke**, one of the Deans of Science Fiction writing (along with the late **Isaac Asimov** and **Robert Heilein**) passed away in March at the age of 90. Besides being a full-on scientist – he helped to develop the first RADAR during World War II, and wrote papers which led to the invention of communications satellites – Clarke was best known as a writer of strenuously scientific SF. And, to a lot of us, he was also known as a creator of truly fascinating aliens: Such as the insect-like Overlords from *Childhood's End*, the triple-sexed denizens of a giant spaceship in *Rendezvous with Rama*, or the unseen yet powerful creatures from *2001: A Space Odyssey* and *2010*. If you haven't checked out Clarke's long list of novels, you should.

In April **Ollie Johnston**, the last survivor of the animation greats known collectively as "**Walt Disney's Nine Old Men**", passed away in Washington State at the age of 95. Ollie's first feature film was the first one produced by Walt Disney, *Snow White* and the *Seven Dwarves*, but he often said that his favorite job was animating Thumper in *Bambi*. After that, Ollie went on to animate many famous and well-loved characters, including Baloo the bear in *The Jungle Book*, Prince John in *Robin Hood*, and a group of dancing penguins in *Mary Poppins*. Mr. Johnston himself also appeared in animated films, often with his life-long friend and fellow animator, the late **Frank Thomas**. **Brad Bird** used the two of them as background characters in both *The Iron Giant* and *The Incredibles*, and Ollie was the model for the character of Rufus the Cat in *The Rescuers*. Ollie Johnston leaves behind a rich legacy, not only of animated films and characters, but of young animators who aspire to be like the Nine Old Men.

Sideways furry, but: **Charlton Heston** also passed away this last April, at the age of 78. Though he had many roles over the years, including Oscar-winning parts, many furry fans

(and science fiction fans) to this day know him best for one line: "Take your stinking paws off me, you damn dirty APE!" That, and "Damn you all to HELL..." We speak, of course, of *Planet of the Apes* from 1968, when Heston almost single-handedly battled a world ruled by chimps, orangutans, and gorillas (in great Oscar-winning makeup by **John Chambers**). Later in his life, Mr. Heston would in some ways spoof his own famous role by himself playing an ape in **Tim Burton's** "re-imagining" of *Planet of the Apes* in 2001.

"In my world everyone is a pony, and they all eat rainbows, and poop butterflies!" Katie, little furry whatsit, in Blue Sky's *Horton Hears a Who!*

Furry Stuff has Conference Stuff! The original ConFurence General Store (for ConFurcences 0 – 10) has moved to the Furry Stuff web portal. Check them out at www.furrystuff.com to find out more – soon, pictures of what's available will be up on-line. Three of the popular ConFurence T-Shirt designs are still available for a limited time: "Furries in Force" (black on honey-color) by **Eric Schwartz** from CF7, "Furries in Love" (black and pink on grey) by **Rachael Cawley** from CF9, and "Sydney's World" (Sydney on a colored globe on green) by **Ken Sample** from CF10. Plus, a very few of **Mitch Beiro's** colorful "Furries in Space" T-shirts remain (write for sizes available). They also still offer the *ConFurence Seven Highlights Video*, as well as the *ConFurence Eight – Music and Mirth* and *ConFurence Nine – Furries in Love* highlights videos, and the special combination video from CF5 (*Furries in Space*) and CF6 (*Magic and Transformation*). Not to mention many cool prints and extra Souvenir Books from past ConFurcences! To find a complete list, visit the Furry Stuff web site, or send them an SASE at: Furry Stuff, P.O. Box 1958, Garden Grove, CA 92842-1958.

Stay with the Herd! So, we hear you say, how do I keep up my **Subscription to In-Fur-Nation?** We're glad you asked! A subscription to *In-Fur-Nation* will bring you even more of what furry fans are looking for around the globe. Find out what to look for, and where to go! It's now brought right to your doorstep **four** times a year (winter, spring, summer, and fall), and still for just a whopping **\$5.00** for a year's subscription. That's right, for a **year**. Just send a check made out to "Furry Stuff" (and note it's for *In-Fur-Nation*), or heck, just send a \$5.00 bill in a darkened envelope. (Trust us, it's an old tradition in the 'zine community. It works). To subscribe, to find out more info, or to send us notes for our Furry News, write us at: In-Fur-Nation, P.O. Box 1958, Garden Grove, CA 92842-1958.

A Note to the staff members of our many Furry Conventions: Hey! We wanna help you get the word out! Having a cool-looking web site is a neat thing, but remember: There are still a significant number of fans out there (furry and otherwise) who don't use the World Wide Web, or who don't use it to its full potential. For them, there's this cool old thing folks on the Internet call *Snail Mail*. That's where we come in! Send us information, and let us help you get the word out to over 1,000 furry fans, artists, dealers, and publishers in the U.S., Canada, Europe, Japan... Look below for our reasonable ad rates, and don't forget... send us text blurbs and you get in for **free!**

A Request to Our Readers: Hey, got a favorite comic or book store that carries your favorite furry titles, or that you wish would carry more? Give us their address! We'll send

them a copy of In-Fur-Nation each quarter, and keep them abreast of the kind of comics and media that you would like to see on their shelves! Remember, they can't order it if they don't know it's out there! *As an alternate:* Know of any good comic zines or web sites that might be looking to trade issues?

Guess what? In-Fur-Nation is looking for Field Reporters! As an on-going feature, we're going to present profiles of furry creators and furry-oriented companies that are helping to promote products and media of interest to furry animal fans all over. So, like to help out? Know a comic book creator, animator, publisher, or other such person in the field who'd like to discuss what furries mean to them, or to the world? Talk to them, write down what they say... then give us a write-up, about 300-500 words, and we'll include it as a blurb in an upcoming INF and give you credit for it. [We do maintain the right to edit for clarity and length, mind you.] And hey, we're looking for **furry convention reviews and anecdotes** too! Send hard copies to the Furry Stuff address above, or, you can e-mail your submission to Rod O'Riley at rds064@hotmail.com.

Advertising in In-Fur-Nation: For those who've been asking, ads in In-Fur-Nation come in these sizes: 1/8-page "business card" size for \$5.00 per issue, and 1/4-page size (4 1/2" tall by 3 1/4" wide) for \$10.00 per issue. Full-page inclusions can also be arranged for \$50.00 an issue. Check should be made out to Furry Stuff. Send camera-ready art and text to P.O. Box 1958, Garden Grove, CA 92642-1958, or send email to rds064@hotmail.com.

(Many thanks to all the people who helped provide information for this issue both by mail and via Internet! Invaluable help was also received from the web masters of the various furry conventions out there.)

Furry (and sorta-furry) Conventions coming your way this summer!

Anime Expo 2007

Anime Expo, the largest gathering in North America for fans of Japanese animation and comics, comes to downtown Los Angeles, California from July 3rd to July 6th, 2008. Officially hosted by the Los Angeles Convention Center, the Expo will also have events taking place at various hotels in the immediate area. As usual, Anime Expo features not only a giant dealer's room of anime-related products, but literally dozens of anime industry veterans as guest speakers – Not to mention tons of premier screenings and live performances. It's all yours for \$65.00 at the door. Lower rates are available for single-day and two-day passes at the door, too. For more information, write The Society for the Promotion of Japanese Animation, 1733 S. Douglas Road, Ste. G, Anaheim, CA 92806. Or, keep in touch with their ever-expanding guest and programming roster by visiting www.anime-expo.org.

San Diego Comic Convention

One of the largest gatherings of fandom in the world (certainly in North America!), every summer tens of thousands of comic book, animation, and pop-culture fans descends on the San Diego shoreline for four days of fun and activities. The list of guests and industry professionals is too big to even try to list here. The Dealers' Room is, quite simply, the largest in

existence. Literally hundreds of comic book publishers, artists, collectors, game designers, movie productions companies and more, all spread out over (we're not kidding here) nearly a square mile. In among them, of course, are lots of comics and artists who do furry art – among them **Radio Comix**, **Antarctic Press**, **Mirage**, **MU**, **Stan Sakai**, and many many small press companies. This year Comic Con takes place July 24th – 27th at the San Diego Convention Center. Adult 4-day memberships are \$65.00, with daily memberships ranging from \$15.00 – BUT, they will not be selling ANY memberships at the door! In fact, Saturday is already completely **Sold Out!** You need to visit their web site at <http://www.comic-con.org/index.php> for more information on how to register on line – and, of course, to find out about all the events and activities. And yes, there will be a furry gathering at Comic Con – probably more than one event!

FA United 2008 – The Power of ROCK!

FA United is a relatively new convention for furry fandom co-sponsored by the well-known and popular art-sharing web site known as Fur Affinity, and the Northeast Anthropomorphic Association. The latest convention – celebrating the furries' love of loud music! – will take place August 1st – 3rd in Newark, New Jersey. The Guests of Honor this time include the artists **Fluke** and **SolidAsp**, as well as the folks behind the furry pod cast known as **ClawCast**.

Appropriate for the theme this year, FA-United's con souvenir book will feature not only artwork, but a lyric contest – lyrics in haiku, no less! And of course, there'll be lots of live musical performances, all offered free to con attendees. You can find out more about their contests and schedule at their web site, www.faunited.org.

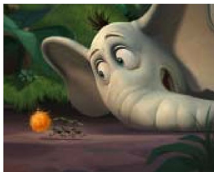
FA United 2007 will be held at the Newark Liberty International Airport Marriott Hotel in Newark, New Jersey – located right in the middle of Newark's famous International Airport. Needless to say, there's easy access to and from New York City; Washington, DC; and other local cities. Call (973) 623-0006 (or toll-free (800) 882-1037) for reservations. The Marriott has been generous enough to offer us room rates of **\$99.00** per night (single or double occupancy – more for triple or quad). Parking is free in the daytime, and \$10.00 overnight.

Mail-in and on-line registration for FA United is open – regular memberships (Groupies!) can be purchased for **\$30.00**. "Roadie", "Front Row", and "Number One Fan" levels of membership are also available. To find out more about FA United, visit their web site above, or write to them care of: Northeast Anthropomorphic Association, 4 Summershade Circle, Piscataway, NJ 08854.

Watch this space in our summer issue for more info on Camp Feral (August 24th – 28th in Ontario, Canada), Eurofurence (August 27th – 31st in Suhl, Germany), Mephit Furmeet (August 29th – 31st in Memphis, Tennessee), RainFurFest (September 26th – 28th in Seattle/Tacoma, Washington), Fur Fright (October 17th – 19th in Waterbury, Connecticut), and Oklacon (October 23rd – 27th near Watonga, Oklahoma). Wow!

That's all for now! Keep in touch with the world of Furry Fandom: Keep in touch with In-Fur-Nation! We'll see you this **Summer!** *Rod O'Riley, your humble ed-otter*

What's that? What's That?



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